

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A^v

1. A data set selecting apparatus comprising:
a storage medium including a plurality of storage areas and storing a plurality of data sets as grouped in a plurality of data groups, each storage area being allotted to each of said data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group;
a display screen which displays a list of data sets;
a plurality of data group selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said data groups individually and selects a data group including data sets allotted thereto and stored in the allotted storage area of said storage medium;
a display controller which causes said display screen to list a plurality of identifiers, each representing each of said data sets allotted to said selected data group; and
a plurality of data set selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said identifiers being listed on said display screen and selects a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers according to user's selection of one of said listed identifiers.

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2. A data set selecting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control panel, and wherein said display screen is provided on said control panel, and said data group selecting controls are arranged on said control panel.

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3. A method for selecting data sets from among a plurality of data sets stored in a storage medium including a plurality of storage areas and storing a plurality of data sets as grouped in a plurality of data groups, each storage area being allotted to each of said data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group, said method comprising:

a step of selecting a data group including data sets allotted thereto and stored in the allotted storage area of said storage medium, by using a plurality of data group selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said data groups individually;

a step of displaying, on a display screen, a list of identifiers, each representing each

of said data sets included in said selected data group; and

a step of selecting a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers, by using a plurality of data set selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said data set individually.

4. A storage medium for use in an apparatus for selecting data sets, said apparatus being of a data processing type comprising a computer, a display screen, a plurality of data group selecting controls, and a plurality of data set selecting controls, said medium including a plurality of storage areas respectively storing a plurality of data sets as grouped in a plurality of data groups, each storage area being allotted to each of said data groups and storing a plurality of data sets which belong to the allotted data group, and said medium further containing a program that is executable by the computer, the program comprising:

a module of selecting a data group including data sets allotted thereto and stored in the allotted storage area of said storage medium, by using a plurality of data group selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said data groups individually;

a module of displaying, on said display screen, a list of identifiers, each representing each of said data sets included in said selected data group;

a module of selecting a data set from among the data sets correspondingly represented by said listed identifiers, by using a plurality of data set selecting controls, each of which is correspondingly allocated for each of said data set individually.